

NORTH PLAINS WATER NEWS

A Publication of the NORTH PLAINS WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Volume 5—Number 2

"Waste Makes Want"

April, 1961



I was reading in the papers the other day where a man had made a fortune out of importing Mexican Burros to the U. S. and selling them for pets. All I can say is he has overlooked the biggest jack pot of all. If he would equip these donkeys with pack saddles and teach them to ride in the back end of a station wagon, then the little woman could take them shopping with her and leave her better half at home. Most husbands that I know would rather buy a pack jack than be one themselves. I have had some experience with donkeys, and I don't believe that they would be half as contrary as a balky husband on a shopping spree. This would help the national economy because every wife would want a station wagon instead of a compact car, as well as creating new jobs for pack saddle makers and pack jack trainers.

Water Primer Is Interesting

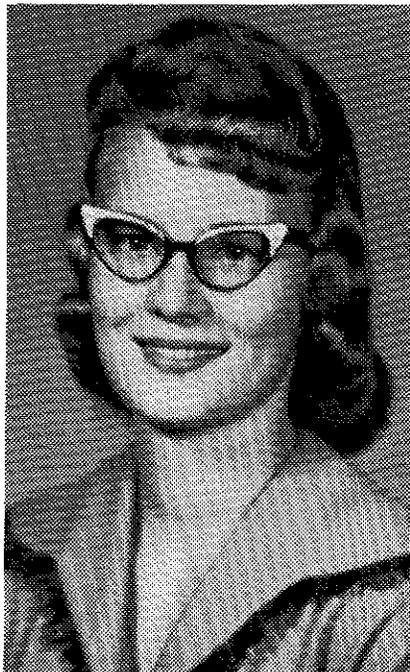
When you open the faucet you expect water to flow. And you expect it to flow night or day, summer or winter, whether you want to fill a glass or water the lawn. It should be clean and pure, without any odor.

You have seen or read about places where the water doesn't have these qualities. You may have lived in a city where you were allowed to water the lawn only during a few hours of certain days. We know a

(Continued on Page 2)

WATER WELL STATISTICS		
County	Wells	
	Permits	Completed
Hansford	3	3
Hartley	0	0
Hutchinson . . .	4	4
Moore	5	4
Ochiltree	0	0
Sherman	3	5

History Recorded As Man Fought for Life Around Water Holes and Creeks



Quanna Jennings, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Jennings of Cactus, is the first place winner of the North Plains Water Conservation District's Essay Contest. Quanna is a Senior in Dumas High School, a member of the National Honor Society, president of the Centuryette Study Club, secretary of the Cactus Community 4-H club, and a member of the Tennis team. Her essay is printed in this issue of the North Plains Water News.

"WHY THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER CONSERVATION"

By Quanna Jennings

When Pioneers settled America they sought and fought for land which had a muddy water hole or a small creek. As that supply of water was exhausted they moved to find another small muddy hole or creek. They followed the course of the water, knew its importance, and appreciated its power of survival. The supply of water is inexhaustible but the availability of water is another matter. It must be distributed and conserved for man's best use because it is necessary for all life—plants, animals, and humans alike. Man's body is composed of two-thirds water. He uses it for comfort, health, cleanliness and recreation. Often times man's comfort depends on how he chooses to use his water supply. Many big industries dump waste and garbage into streams which cause an unfitness for any use of that water. Our recreational and economical activity depends on and demands abundant supplies of clean water. Now more than ever the need for safe water is greater.

As an American stands and looks around he can see land which is cultivated and rich, being nursed by gentle flowing irrigation water. Land and water cannot be separated because conserving one is conserving both.

Irrigation in farming is one of our greatest uses of water but scientific farming is one of our most important ways of conservation. The water cycle gives us a constant supply of water but does not place the water where it is needed and where it is not. Our underground water can-

(Continued on Page 3)

Every Well In District Will Get A Number

Each well in the North Plains Water District is assigned a number. In reporting our winter water measurements and other information concerning the wells the District numbers are used. We find many people do not know the num-

(Continued on Page 2)

Board Meeting May 1

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Plains Water Conservation District will be held in the District office in Dumas, May 1, 1961, at 10 a.m.

North Plains Water News

DALLAM	SHERMAN	HANSFORD	OGCHILTREE	LIPSCOMB
HARTLEY	MOORE	HUTCHINSON	ROBERTS	HEMPHILL
OLDHAM	POTTER	CARSON	GRAY	WHEELER

A publication of the North Plains Water Conservation District, consisting of all or part of the following counties: Hansford, Hartley, Hutchinson, Moore, Sherman, and Ochiltree.

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Bobbie Winchester, Secretary-Bookkeeper
W. H. Alexander, Jr., U. S. Geological Survey
Delbert Timmons, Technician

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Precinct 2: N. F. Renner, Spearman, Texas
- Precinct 3: Luther Browder, Vice-President, Sunray, Texas
- Precinct 4: Gaston Wells, President, Dumas, Texas
- Precinct 5: Robert Thompson, Hartley, Texas

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Ned Turner, Spearman, Texas
Tommy Joe Bergen, Gruver, Texas
Dee Jackson, Spearman, Texas
R. V. Converse, Spearman, Texas
Committeemen meet the first Friday of each month in the Spearman Steak House, Spearman, Texas.

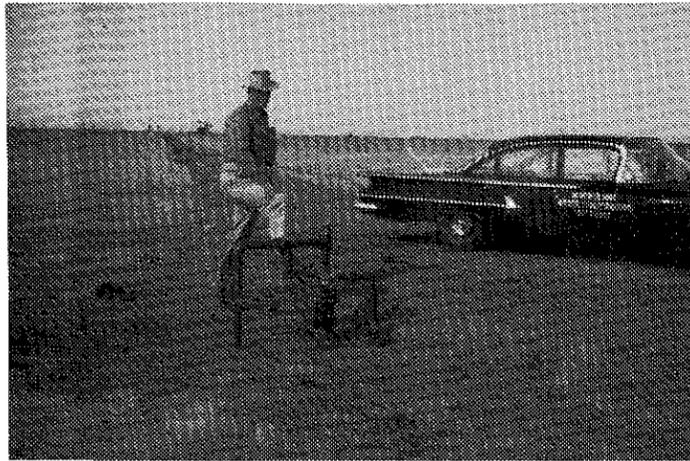
- Hartley County**
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Jack Thompson, Hartley, Texas
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Noble Watson, Stinnett, Texas
Committee meets first Thursday in each month at County Agent's office in Stinnett.

- Moore County**
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B. C. Shaw, Sunray, Texas
J. A. Hall, Sunray, Texas
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Roger Pearson, Perryton, Texas
Bill Pletcher, Perryton, Texas
Roy Stollings, Booker, Texas
Committee meets 2nd Thursday each month Ranch House Cafe

- Sherman County**
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County Agent's office, Stratford, Texas
Melvin Phillips, Stratford, Texas
Arlyn Haile, Stratford, Texas
Vernon Carter, Stratford, Texas
H. H. Carraway, Stratford, Texas
Walter Lasley, Texhoma, Texas
Sherman County Committee will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Stratford.



Maurice Bently, production supt., is shown with a Salt Water Disposal well in eastern Moore County being operated by the J. M. Huber Corporation for the disposal of salt water being produced with oil from 26 wells on their Russell, Fuller, and Pritchard leases. Water flows into the Glorieta formation by gravity thereby protecting the fresh water from contamination. This Disposal well is taking care of water from the Melvin Jones farm where some contamination occurred.

The J. M. Huber Corporation is currently using seven disposal wells to dispose of brine produced with oil. Three wells were drilled into the Glorieta formation and four oil wells were converted to disposal wells.

Water Primer—

(Continued from First Page)

large town where the water turns brown after every big rainstorm.

Beginning shortly after World War II, large areas in the Southwestern United States had a 10-year drought, and newspapers published a lot of information about its effects. Some people say that the growing demand for water will cause serious shortages over much of the country in the next 10 to 40 years. But it has always been true that while water wells and springs dry up in some places, floods may be occurring in other places at the same time.

Nearly every month news stories are published describing floods somewhere in the country. In fact, every year, on the average, 75,000 persons are forced from their homes by floods. In some years, as in 1951 when the lower Kansas River experienced a great flood, half a million people are affected. To understand the reasons for such recurring distress, it is necessary to know something about rivers and about the flat land or flood plain that borders the river.

Interest in water and related problems is growing as our population increases and as the use of water becomes steadily greater. To help meet this heightened interest in general information about water and its use and control is the reason this primer was written. The primer is in two parts. The first part tells about hydrology, or the science that concerns the relation of water to our earth, and the second part describes the development of water supplies and the use of water. The Geological Survey is publishing this primer in non-technical language in the hope that it will enable the general reader to understand the facts about water as a part of nature, and that by having this understanding the people can solve their water problems.

The above is from the "Primer on Water" which is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. for 35c a copy. It is recommended for anyone interested in water conservation.

Every Well—

(Continued from First Page)

ber of their well. It is planned in the near future to stamp the District number on each well so the owner will know which well is being referred to and have a record of it.

If for any reason you do not want the number stamped on your well please inform the District office.

Each County has a prefix to their number. Ochiltree is O; Hansford is Hn; Hutchinson is Hu; Hartley is Ha; Moore is M; and Sherman is S. Any number below 200 after the prefix is a pre-district number. An well with a number from 200 up was drilled after the District was formed.

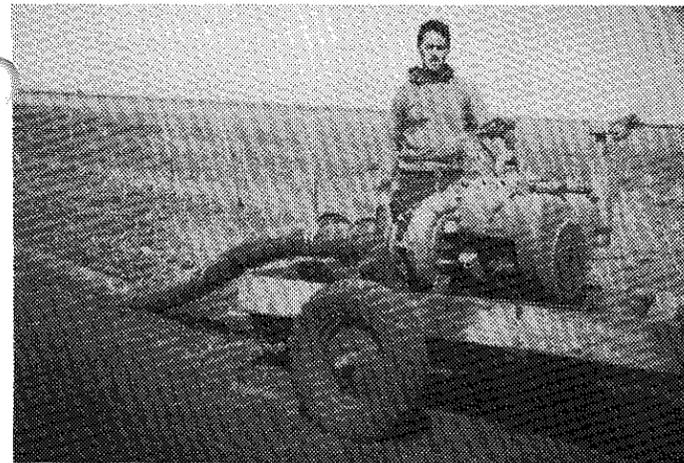
"Wassie Makes Want"

Sunray Farmer Uses Pump To Reclaim Lake Water

H. B. Bishop, who farms 5 miles east of Sunray, uses this pump to re-claim lake and tail water to irrigate with. Mr. Bishop has irrigated three crops with the pump. Last year 140 acres of wheat was irrigated two times and produced 40 bushels per acre. The pump cost about \$1250 and is capable of producing 2000 gallons per minute. Aluminum pipe is used to pipe water up the hill to where it can be used. 1200 feet are being used at the present time and would cost about \$1800.

Mr. Bishop operates 3 irrigation wells but tail water and run off water pumped from the lake is his cheapest source of water for irrigation.

Jim Thomas who is associated with Mr. Bishop in this farming operation is pictured above.



Why Importance—

(Continued from First Page)

not keep up this steady drainage being taken from it every day. In the High Plains we receive our water supply from the Ogalla formation. From this formation we must provide water for industrial use, cities, and irrigation. From 1908 when the first irrigation well was used, to 1956 more than 35 thousand wells have been drilled to furnish water for more than 3 million acres of land. Although water is needed for irrigation it must be used in a resourceful way. To avoid waste, water is stored in reservoirs during the rainy season for use during the dry season. Spacing wells at least 400 yards apart help to keep from drawing the water table down. Also water is piped underground to prevent evaporation. Contour farming helps give the farmer proper water use without it running off the field. Bench leveling and ponds to catch the tail water are practiced. In an especially dry season when an excessive amount of water is used you can replenish it by water spreading. The deciding of water control must correspond with the type of soil. Some soils soak and resist erosion by irrigation water very well but others do not. Land is cultivated to loosen the soil so that water may have the chance to soak in and through to our source of water supply thus replenishing it. Water must be used to nurse and coax our food, living, and clothing into greater amounts to meet our demands instead of rushing, raging and eroding our soil therefore cutting our economy.

A farmer's income and our nations' food are things which depend on our conservation of water. Too much water can be applied as well as too little. The water underground is constantly moving very slowly and if not used it will flow into the ocean. So water can be conserved by using it as well as not using it. It's not so much the amount of water

you use but the way you use that water to get the maximum benefit from it.

Most all type of industry have increased their use of water 36% since 1939. First it is used for cooling purposes. Secondly, for processing. The third major use is in generating electric power. In these three uses the water can sometimes be reused which expands the conservation of water. Also, industries reclaims water from sewage to get needed water. Just as cities and farmers must face the problem of eliminating waste of water so must industry face the need to conserve water by every possible method.

Our forests and vegetation play an important role in our conservation of water. They hold rain water so that it will have time to soak in and slow the flow of water into the ocean. If forests and vegetation are destroyed bare land will result. When rain pelts down on bare land it causes erosion—a waste of water and of land. If let go very long flood conditions may arise. Dams have been constructed for control of flood damages and lakes for drainage. Adjustments in land use, strip cropping, terrace outlets, terraces, and seeding of pastures are methods which can be used in conservation. Uncontrolled water can be destructive, taking buildings, land, and means of livelihood, even human lives with it. It can be an asset or it can be destruction. Nations from the beginning of time have grown and died because they used their resources in a wasteful manner without conservation. As our country grows we must grow, our resources must be conserved, and water, one of the most important, must be controlled to give us a maximum benefit. Our nation must learn how to handle excess water and how to conserve it. To do this we must increase the rate of infiltrating more water into the soil. We cannot make major changes in its use without making major changes in manage-

ment.

Although water conservation has been stressed it cannot be stressed enough. You can make your future with conservation of water or you may lose it. The old saying you never miss the water until the well runs dry is true. Water is a commonplace thing and usually commonplace things are the least appreciated and the hardest to understand. The statement of a problem is the first step in its solution. This solution could be with an increased demand, every citizen should make it his duty to see that the maximum benefit is realized from every drop of water. Plenty falls from the skies. All we have to do is save it.

Man takes pleasure in seeing an eroded canyon, a cave, or a waterfall. All three are beauties made by water. All three make us feel a power and a reverence which cannot be surpassed. Water can be majestic—a beautiful nature to be seen in a still clear pool. The singing of a waterfall can be happy and pleasant. Water is life-giving and purifying. It is productive and powerful. The choice is ours: Waste land or pleasant, productive, useful water—water under control.

District Comic Book Received Enthusiastically

The response which the District has received on the Comic Book "Ogallala Slim Sez" has been overwhelming.

Since the publication date we have mailed, on request, well over 1000 copies, to states all over the nation. Some are: New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Tennessee, Montana, Michigan, and New York.

Husband: "Darling, I brought home some things for the person I love best. I bet you can't guess what they are."

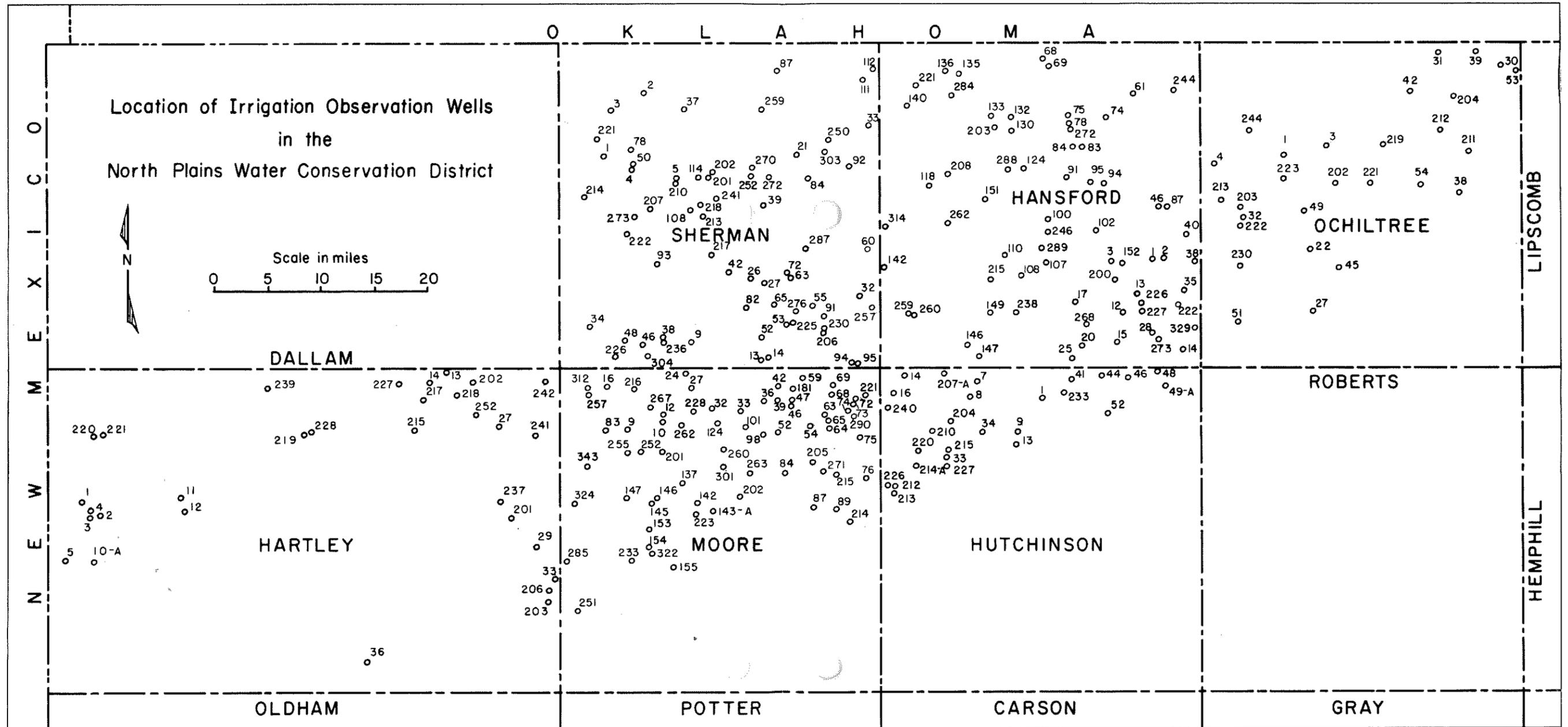
Wife: "Razor blades, cigars and a dozen golf balls."

Winter Measurements of Water Levels in Irrigation Observation Wells in Water District

The winter measurements of the static water levels in the irrigation observation wells in the North Plains Water District for the years 1956, 1957, 1960, and 1961, are given by counties in the following tables. The figures are depths in feet below the land-surface datum; and the tables include the changes of water levels from the winter of 1956 to the winter of 1961, from the winter of 1957 to the winter of 1961 and from the winter of 1960 to the winter of 1961. (Measurements and changes of water level for the intervening years were published in the July 1958, April 1959, and April 1960 issues of the NORTH PLAINS WATER NEWS.) A minus sign (-) indicated a decline of water level, and a plus sign (+) indicates a rise of water level. The averages of the amounts of change for each county and for the Water District are summarized in a separate

table. The locations of the irrigation observation wells are shown on the index map. The numbers on the map are the county well numbers used by the Water District. Wells number 200, or greater, were drilled after the organization of the Water District.

The annual measurements are part of an investigation of the ground-water resources of the North Plains Water District which has been in progress since January 1956. This investigation is being conducted by the U. S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the North Plains Water District and the Texas Board of Water Engineers.



IRRIGATION WELLS HANSFORD COUNTY (Winter Measurement)

Table with columns: District No., 1956, 1957, 1960, 1961, 1961 to 1961, 1957 to 1961, 1960 to 1961. Includes summary statistics at the bottom.

IRRIGATION OBSERVATION WELLS HARTLEY COUNTY (Winter Measurement)

Table with columns: District No., 1956, 1957, 1961, 1961 to 1961, 1957 to 1961, 1960 to 1961. Includes summary statistics at the bottom.

IRRIGATION OBSERVATION WELLS HUTCHINSON COUNTY (Winter Measurement)

Table with columns: District No., 1956, 1957, 1961, 1961 to 1961, 1957 to 1961, 1960 to 1961. Includes summary statistics at the bottom.

IRRIGATION WELLS SHERMAN COUNTY (Winter Measurement)

Table with columns: District No., 1956, 1957, 1961, 1961 to 1961, 1957 to 1961, 1960 to 1961. Includes summary statistics at the bottom.

IRRIGATION OBSERVATION WELLS MOORE COUNTY (Winter Measurement)

Table with columns: District No., 1956, 1957, 1961, 1961 to 1961, 1957 to 1961, 1960 to 1961. Includes summary statistics at the bottom.

AVERAGE AMOUNTS OF CHANGE IN WATER LEVEL IN NORTH PLAINS WATER DISTRICT BY COUNTIES

COUNTY	1956 to 1961		1957 to 1961		1960 to 1961	
	Number of Wells	Average Change	Number of Wells	Average Change	Number of Wells	Average Change
HANSFORD	23	-3.28	38	-1.89	62	-0.33
HARTLEY	15	-2.50	16	-1.34	30	-0.38
HUTCHINSON	11	-4.35	17	-2.22	27	-0.35
MOORE	24	-6.37	36	-3.64	62	-0.78
OCHILTREE	5	-1.97	18	-0.17	25	-0.03
SHERMAN	25	-4.05	34	-1.73	67	-0.69
North Plains Water District (Average by Counties) (Average per year)		-3.75 -0.75		-1.83 -0.46		-0.43 -0.43

District To Notify Of Well Measurements

District office in Dumas will notify owners or operators of measurements of the wells used in reporting water level declines. This card will include the first measurement obtained on the well and subsequent measurements where available. If more than one well is involved a card will be mailed for each well concerned. If there are any questions please call at the District Office.

IRRIGATION OBSERVATION WELLS OCHILTREE COUNTY (Winter Measurement)

District No.	1956	1957	1960	1961	1956 to 1961	1957 to 1961	1960 to 1961
1			249.65	248.55			+1.10
3	246.79	250.19	249.90	249.75	- 2.96	+ 0.44	+0.15
4	223.19	224.09	224.75	225.20	- 2.01	- 1.11	-0.45
22		273.36	275.40	275.20		- 1.84	+0.20
27		357.34	357.10	357.80		-0.46	-0.70
30			211.20	210.20			+1.00
31	232.18	232.85	232.90	233.00	- 0.82	-0.15	-0.10
32			247.65	247.90			-0.25
39		266.35		258.50		+7.85	
38		266.35		258.50		+7.85	
42		237.58	258.30	237.45		+0.13	-0.15
42		237.58	237.30	237.45		+0.13	-0.15
49	243.75	243.10	243.40	244.80	- 1.05	- 1.70	- 1.70
51	338.73	340.54	341.35	341.75	- 3.02	- 1.21	- 0.45
53		206.25	206.70	206.70		-0.45	-0.00
54			205.04	202.25			+2.79
202		255.05	253.80	254.20		+0.85	-0.40
203			243.30	243.90			-0.60
204		234.65	234.60	234.75		-0.10	-0.15
211				234.10			
212			244.15	244.50			-0.35
213		245.42	248.75	249.70		-4.28	-0.95
219		226.60	226.30	226.55		+0.05	-0.25
221			263.10	262.70			+0.40
222		260.65	262.00	262.20		-1.55	-0.20
223		244.23	243.22	243.22		+1.01	-0.00
230			285.78	286.00			-0.22
244				242.85			
				Number of wells	5	18	25
				Averages	-1.97	-0.17	-0.03
				Average per year	-0.39	-0.04	-0.03

Safety Bill Introduced

House Bill No. 692 has been introduced by Representative Jess Osborn and co-signed by Representatives Buchanan, Ballman, McIlhenny, Kuillian, Adams, Wells, Petty, and Roberts. This Bill would add a new section to the underground water law by allowing the Water District after ten days notice to the operator or owner of a tract of land on which an open or an abandoned well is located to cover or plug the open well in such a way that it would not continue to be a hazard to health and safety of the public.

You Drive Blind 33 Miles Out Of 50

Scientists at the American Optical Company investigated blinking of the the eyes. They discovered that it requires one-fifth of a second to blink and that a person usually blinks twenty-five times every minute. If you averaged fifty miles an hour on a motoring trip of ten hours, you would have driven thirty-three miles with your eyes shut!

"Civilization began at the Spring; the history of man is the story of Water; the story will end when the Spring runs dry."

NORTH PLAINS WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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DUMAS, TEXAS

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